# "We shoot faggots" T-shirt draws protest

The Rampart Range Sertoma Club is debating whether to adopt rules that would put stricter controls on what is displayed at its exhibitions after a published photo of an offensive T-shirt generated letters of protest to the club's national headquarters.

The shirt, displayed at the Rampart Range Sertoma Gun & Sportsman Expo on March 11, sported the phrase "In Colorado we have a cure for AIDS...We shoot faggots." Also on the shirt was a drawing of a man holding a handgun. *The Independent* ran the photo in its March 15 issue.

"Sertoma...should not be purveyors of hate propaganda," UCCS Professor John C. Miller responded in a letter addressed to Sertoma International, with copies sent to the American Civil Liberties Union, elected officials and local Sertoma clubs.

Sertoma International, based in Kansas City, is a service organization with community-based clubs nationwide that raises money for non-profit organizations like the Colorado School for the Deaf and The Blind and Easter Seals.

Greg Varner, president of the Southern Colorado AIDS Project, said he was disappointed that the Sertoma Club allowed the T-shirt to be displayed during a fund-raising event.

"AIDS is not a gay disease, and this display simply reinforces the misconception that it is," said Varner, who also sent a letter to the club's headquarters. "For a respected club that does so much good for the community to allow this to happen took me totally by surprise. We hope Sertoma will be more selective in what is displayed from now on."

A spokesman previously said the Rampart Range Sertoma Club does not control what is displayed at its exhibits.

But in an interview last week, member Noel Naparlo said that the club is reconsidering its policy. Many of the dealers at the show are not Sertoma Club members, he said.

"This shirt obviously offended some people, and it certainly doesn't represent the views of Sertoma. In fact, some of our members told us they were offended by it," Naparlo said.

***— Greg Worthen***

# A Really Outragous Contract With America

The good news about the Contract With America is that the Newtniks are kicking at a lot of moss-covered government rocks, asking good questions, shaking things up. The bad news is that they aren't doing it nearly hard enough.

For example, Congress has finally passed and the president has signed into law what Newt Gingrich calls the Congressional Accountability Act. It requires Congress to abide by any regulation it writes for the rest of us: minimum wage, workplace safety, affirmative action, environmental impact assessments.

That's a heartening change, and high time. But it doesn't really hold Congress accountable. The way Newt et al. wrote it, if a representative gets sued, say, for discrimination in hiring, we the taxpayers pick up his or her legal expenses.

In that and many other ways the Contract stops short of real revolution. It has more to do with the good of the powerful than the good of the nation. It didn't arise in a democratic forum and was never subject to democra-

card. No TelePrompTers. Any candidate who makes a false accusation about another will be immediately disqualified from the race.

*The Restoring American Democracy Amendment*: Elected representatives shall receive in income only what the taxpayers pay them. Zero out retainers, honoraria, PACs, flights on corporate jets, campaign contributions. The penalty for violation shall be immediate removal from office. Salaries for representatives shall be set at exactly 10 times, for senators 15 times, for the vice president and cabinet members 20 times, and for the president 25 times the legal minimum wage.

*The Broadcasting-Bias Equalizer*: The cost of advertising shall no longer be deductible as a business expense, so taxpayers who hate ads aren't forced to pay for them. A fraction of the enhanced public revenues from this measure shall be used to triple the budget of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

*The Funded Mandates Gratitude Resolution*: Any state, county or town that bitches about unfunded mandates shall be audited to see whether federal expenditures in that area exceed federal taxes paid. If so, that state, county or town must pay the difference back to the government, apologize and shut